

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A combined battery comprising two end plates and a plurality of cells stacked adjacent each other and bound by the two end plates,

5 wherein the cells are provided with a battery container made of resin, and

 the plurality of cells are bound by the two end plates with a binding force equal to or lower than a threshold value determined based on a number and a compressibility of the cells and stiffness of the battery container, in such
10 a manner that no more than a predetermined amount of irreversible deformation will be caused in the battery container.

2. A combined battery according to claim 1, wherein the cell includes an electrode plate group containing positive electrode plates and negative
15 electrode plates stacked adjacent each other with separators interposed therebetween, and

 the cells are stacked in a direction corresponding to a stacking direction of the electrode plate group.